

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield (FOSMW)

Chairman's Report year ending December 2019

After the Organ Appeal, and the completion of the work on St Mary's organ, David Goode, international recitalist and head of keyboard at Eton accepted the invitation to play at the celebratory organ recital on Saturday 8 June. The evening was a great success with an imaginative programme that showed what could be done with our useful instrument.

FOSMW once again managed the "Family Fun Day" renamed in 2019 "Awesome August Fayre". The format changed a little and several outside charities were invited to participate. Messy Church was also involved and provided three activities for the day.

The very successful and excellent Music and Merriment concert was also managed by FOSMW.

The Mercers' Company very generously made a grant of £10,000 for the organ restoration. However, the very successful fund raising by FOSMW, particularly the "sponsor a pipe" scheme provided sufficient funds to pay for the restoration without using the grant. The Mercers' Company has very kindly allowed us to retain the grant for our next fund raising activity provided that they approve the project.

FOSMW made grants to the PCC of £18,672.50 in 2019. £94.31 for Electrics, £8,795.23 for the organ appeal and £9,795.23 towards St Mary's general expenses. Please see the Treasurer's report.

The next project for FOSMW as mentioned at our AGM in 2019 was to be the electrics and indeed some fund raising has been started. The Bell Ringers and Guild have already raised a little money for this. However, as the financial problems of Winkfield Parish became apparent the Trustees thought a short delay in further project fundraising would be wise. Hence the donation to St Mary's general expenses after meeting with the Winkfield Treasurer.

At the first meeting of FOSMW this year the Trustees agreed that project fund raising would begin again and as certain criticisms were received after the Christmas concert regarding the poor sound system in the church perhaps a new or updated sound system should be investigated. Discussions are taking place with relevant companies for both sound systems and electrical installations. When these are finalised the Mercers' Company will be advised and we hope they will accept our proposal.

If a new sound system is installed then basic lessons in how to project properly will be provided.

In addition to the new project there are three general fund raisers being organised.

Saturday 2 May, The Founders Choir, formerly the Chamber Choir, from Holloway will give a concert at St Mary's. The choir is conducted by Luke Saint, who has been playing the organ at St Mary's for roughly two years. The accompanist for the concert will be George Nicholls who has recently joined the list of St Mary's organists.

Saturday 5 September, "Splendid September Fayre" at Carnation Hall. All the stall holders who attended the "Awesome August Fayre" have been invited to take a stall again. Many have said yes. Family Praise, Messy Church and the Guild will also be involved.

Saturday 5 December Music and Merriment concert. Another wonderful start to Christmas.

FOSMW is a successful fundraising organisation for the benefit of the Parish and we urge all with an interest in the welfare of St Mary's Church to join its membership. The membership is now 39 (plus including family members). We have, sadly, lost three stalwart members during the year. June Trainor, Mary Knight and John Luck. Our thoughts are with their families.

The 'Friends of St Mary's Winkfield' is a registered Charity (1162342), and all fundraising is for the maintenance and preservation of St Mary's church and its resources, thereby financially contributing to the Parish by carrying some of its costs.

The management and administration of the Friends is wholly carried out by voluntary effort, with minimum expenditure on external services.

All FOSMW activities are publicised on www.fosmw.com. There is a link to the parish website and vice versa. The FOSMW website also hosts the Winkfield Parish News' (i.e. the parish magazine's) webpage..

Lesley Philpot
Chairman